India for exporting graphite electrodes;

(c) if so, how much export they have made during the last three years; and

(d) whether it is advisable to ac celerate export of this item to have India's share in export potential?

THE MINISTER OF \ STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) There are three firms manufacturing graphite electrodes in the country and also are in the export market. India's exports over the last few years has been in the range of about 3000 tonnes per annum. Government is making efforts to accelerate export of graphite electrodes.

Backward talukas in Tamil Nadu

1020. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be please^ to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include Sriperumbudur Taluka as one of the industrially backward Taluka in Tamil Nadu State, considering that there is no backward district in this State; and

(b) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The districts of Dharmapuri, Kanya-"kumari. Madurai. North Arcot, Rama-nathapuram. South Arcot Thanjavur, Thiruchirapalli and Pudukottai in Tamil Nadu have been identified as industrially backward and the entrepreneurs who set up industries in these districts are eligible for Central incentives/concessions like Central Investment Subsidy, Concessional Finance, exemption from income-tax, priority in the grant of licences etc. There is no proposal at present to include Sriperumbudur taluka as industrially backward.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee has, however, been set up to review and revise the existing scheme for industrial development of backward areas. The Committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

Escalation in costs of some project

1021. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA; SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as many as 108 projects including those in the key sector like power, coal, steel, cement and railways have shown an alarming escalations in costs from 24,803 crores as anticipated earlier to Rs. 43,154 crores estimated now and these may go up further;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to f_c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of DHA acetate

1022. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact thai his Ministry recommended the import of DHA acetate. 16 DPA, Estrone under Open General Licence;

(b) names of the drugs companies which are licenced to produce tnese intermediates in tbe country;"

(c) wha* is the licenced and installed capacity of each and what was the production of each during the last three yc-ars, year-wise;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the capacities for the production of I these intermediates are lying idle;